

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O.:11652:GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE ISSUE AT UNGA

1. BRITISH EMBOFFS LING AND SAMUELS CALLED ON CEN TO BRING US UP TO DATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. THEY REPORTED THAT TWO MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD BETWEEN SANCHEZ AND CONSUL WEYMES IN RECENT WEEKS. DURING FIRST, ON SEPTEMBER 1, WEYMES SENT IN TO AGAIN REQUEST OF GOG SOME FURTHER DETAILS OF ITS SECRET PLAN TO BE USED TO CONVINCE PRICE OF GUATEMALA SERIOUSNESS AND TO BE IN STRONGER POSITION TO INFLUENCE HIM NOT TO PUSH BELIZE ISSUE AT UNGA. SANCHEZ REPORTEDLY TOLD WEYMES THAT GOG COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY DETAILS BECAUSE OF FEAR THEY MIGHT BE LEAKED AND CAUSE DIFFICULTIES AT SENSITIVE JUNCTURE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. AT SECOND MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 26, INITIATED BY SANCHEZ, WEYMES WAS INFORMED THAT SPANISH DELEGATE TO UNGA OFFERED (TO ARENALES) TO ADD A PASSAGE ON BELIZE ISSUE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SECTION OF HIS GA ADDRESS ATTACKING BRITISH GIBRALTAR

POSITION- ARENALES TURNED DOWN THE OFFER, AND ASKED
SANCHEZ TO INFORM WEYMES.

3. ALSO, SOMETIME IN MID-SEPTEMBER, PRICE MET WITH SIR
DUNCAN WATSON IN LONDON AND AIRED HIS LACK OF CONFIDENCE
IN THE GUATEMALANS COMING FORWARD IN MARCH, 1974 WITH A

SERIOUS PROPOSAL. PRICE SAID PAST DEALINGS WITH THE
GUATEMALANS GAVE HIM LITTLE CAUSE FOR HOPE THAT THEY
WOULD COME FORWARD WITH ANYTHING POSITIVE FOLLOWING
ELECTIONS. HE WAS FEARFUL THAT THE GOG WAS SIMPLY BUYING
TIME.

4. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING IN LONDON, PRICE RETURNED TO
BELIZE AND DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE, THEN WENT ON TO JAMAICA TO TALK TO MANLEY AND
THOMPSON.

5. THE EMBOFFS REMAIN SKEPTICAL THAT HMG EFFORTS TO
CONVINCE PRICE TO PLAY IN LOW KEY AT THE UNGA HAVE REALLY
HAD MUCH EFFECT, THOUGH THEIR DELEGATIONS SOUNDINGS IN
NEW YORK INDICATE LITTLE INTEREST IN THE ISSUE. THEY
VIEWED ARENALES REFUSAL OF THE SPANISH OFFER AS A
POSITIVE SIGN WHICH THEY PROMISED TO RELAY TO PRICE. THE
EMBOFFS ASKED WHETHER WE THOUGHT THE GUATEMALANS COULD BE
CONVINCED TO DISCLOSE SOME DETAILS OF THEIR PLAN. CEN
OFFICERS ASKED IN RESPONSE WHETHER SANCHEZ GAVE ANY REASON
FOR NOT GIVING DETAILS OTHER THAN FEAR OF LEAKS. EMBOFFS
RESPONDED THAT FEAR OF LEAKS WAS SUBSTANCE OF REFUSAL.
CEN OFFICIALS OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS SOMEWHAT ODD IN THAT
CONSIDERABLE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DRAFTS, TO SAY
NOTHING OF SECRET MEETINGS, HAD OCCURRED IN PAST YEARS
WITHOUT LEAKS. HOWEVER, WE DID NOT ENCOURAGE EMBOFFS TO
FEEL OPTIMISTIC OVER POSSIBILITY THAT GOG MIGHT REVEAL
SOME ASPECTS OF PLAN.

6. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT HMG WANTS TO LEAVE THE
IMPRESSION IT HAS LITTLE CONTROL OVER WHAT PRICE OR
COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES RAISE OR PUSH AT THE UNGA.
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HMG APPEARS HOPEFULL THAT ISSUE WILL BE BURIED IN FOURTH
COMMITTEE AS IN PAST YEARS, BUT DOES NOT DISCOUNT
POSSIBILITY OF RESOLUTION OR, AT LEAST, STRONG STATEMENTS
IN SPEECHES OF COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN DELEGATES. HMG ALSO
APPEARS HIGHLY SKEPTICAL OF GOG AND, LIKE PRICE, HAS UN-
EASY FEELING GOG IS PLAYING FOR TIME AT ITS EXPENSE.
BECAUSE OF ITS UNEASINESS OVER GOG STANCE, WE STILL HAVE
IMPRESSION THAT FOR TACTICAL REASONS, HMG IS NOT KEEPING

PRICE ON TOO SHORT A LEASH.

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